PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ICANTS : Steven P. HERGOTT, David S. HAMBLIN, and

Michael J. HARDY

SERIAL NO. : 10/682,475

FILED : October 9, 2003

TITLE : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VERTICALLY STUFFING

CASINGS WITH SAUSAGE EMULSION

Group/A.U. : 1761

Examiner

Conf. No. : 9130

Docket No. : P06663US0-169I

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Attached are Forms PTO/SB/08A and 8B (formerly PTO-1449) listing the relevant art known to applicant herein. Copies of the listed foreign references are enclosed. However, copies of the U.S. cited references are not enclosed.

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information, of which they are aware that they believe may be material to the examination of this application, and in respect of which, there may be a duty to disclose. Legible copies of all items listed in Forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly Form PTO-1449) accompany this information statement.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(A))

Donald H. Zarley

I hereby certify that this document and the documents referred to as enclose therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this Alexandria, VA 2004.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. §197(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement; however, consider this a request for any fees inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 50-2098.

Respectfully submitted,

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PTO/SB/O8A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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JAN 2 0 2004 > Substitute for form 1449A/PTO Complete if Known LINEGENATION DISCLOSURE 10/682,475 **Application Number** October 9, 2003 STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Filing Date HERGOTT, et al. First Named Inventor 1761 (use as many sheets as necessary) Art Unit **Examiner Name** Attorney Docket Number 1 OF Sheet P06663US0-169I

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO					Complete if Known
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Application Number	10/682,475 October 9, 2003
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				First Named Inventor	HERGOTT, et al.
(use as many sheets as necessary)				Art Unit Examiner Name	1761
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Examiner			Date				
Signature			Considered				
*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and							

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(1) Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). (2) See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. (3) Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3.) (4) For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. (5.) Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard St. 16 if possible. (6) Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents,

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